

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5197
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AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 4142

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNCTAD, ZGID, PK,
SUBJ: UNCTAD IV

REF : (A) STATE 94097; (B) STATE 96398, (C) ISLAMABAD 1285,

SUMMARY: A/DCM AND ECONOFF DISCUSSED GOP ASSESSMENT OF UNCTAD IV ON APRIL 23 WITH MU R AKRAM, DIRECTOR (UN AFFAIRS), MFA. AKRAM'S ASSESSMENT CLOSELY PARALLELS THAT IN REF B. HE BELIEVES THAT MOST CONTENTIOUS SUBJECT WILL BE GROUP OF 77 PROPOSAL FOR INTEGRATED PROGRAM FOR COMMODITIES TRADE AND EXPECTS NO MEANINGFUL OUTCOME. HE EXPECTS SOME DEBATE ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY CODE OF CONDUCT LEADING TO AN ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE. HE FELT THE FINANCIAL DEBATE WOULD PROBABLY REACH NO SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION BUT WOULD NOT RESULT IN ILL FEELINGS. AKRAM STATED THAT MAIN AIM OF GOP DELEGATION THROUGHOUT WILL BE TO SECURE SOME RELIEF IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE FOR ITS MAIN PROBLEM -- EXPORT OF COTTON AND COTTON TEXTILES. END SUMMARY.

1. COMMODITIES: PAKISTAN WILL MAINTAIN A VERY LOW PROFILE IN DISCUSSION ON COMMODITIES. THE GOP HAS NEVER BELIEVED THAT THE INTEGRATED PROGRAM APPROACH HOLDS MUCH PROMISE AS AN EFFECTIVE ANSWER TO INTERNATIONAL TRADE PROBLEMS.
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WHILE PAKISTANI COTTON AND RICE EXPORTS MIGHT HOPE TO

BENEFIT FROM BEING INCLUDED IN SUCH A PROGRAM, AKRAM SEES EVEN GREATER CHANCE THAT PAKISTAN WOULD SUFFER SHOULD THIS TOPIC BECOME CAUSE FOR FAILURE TO REACH SOME SOLUTION IN OTHER SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED AT UNCTAD IV. PAKISTAN DOES, HOWEVER, HAVE A COMMITMENT TO THE UNITY OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND THEREFORE WILL QUIETLY SUPPORT THE 77 QOEN NECESSARY IN THIS SUBJECT AREA.

2. TRANSNATIONALS AND TECHNOLOGY: AKRAM DOES NOT SEE AN IMPORTANT PART FOR PAKISTAN TO PLAY IN DISCUSSIONS ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. HE BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD BE TO THE ADVANTAGE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO HAVE A BASIC SET OF INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED STANDARDS IN EACH OF THESE AREAS. PAKISTAN IS NOT, HOWEVER, SOLIDLY COMMITTED TO LEGALLY BINDING INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS. PAKISTAN WILL, AGAIN, SUPPORT GROUP OF 77 POSITIONS WHEN NECESSARY BUT MIGHT WELL SERVE AS A MODERATE WITH OTHER LDC COUNTRIES IN THIS SUBJECT AREA.

3. MONEY AND FINANCE: IN GENERAL, AKRAM'S ASSESSMENT PARALLELED PARAS 19-21 OF REF B. AKRAM SAID THAT PAKISTAN'S POSITION ON MONETARY AND FINANCIAL ISSUES WOULD BE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS PAKISTAN'S POSITION IN CIEC (SEE REF C AND PREVIOUS EMB REPORTING ON CIEC). SOME OF PAKISTAN'S CONCERN HAD BEEN MET BY RECENT DEVELOPMENTS (WE PRESUME AKRAM WAS REFERRING TO SUCH DEVELOPMENTS AS THE DECISIONS OF THE IMF COMMITTEE IN JAMAICA AND PROGRESS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF IFAD). PAKISTAN WOULD FAVOR RESUMPTION OF THE CREATION OF SDRS IN A MANNER FAVORING THE LDCS. PAKISTAN'S EARLIER POSITION AT CIEC HAD ALSO INCLUDED A PROVISION CALLING FOR A MORATORIUM OR FORGIVENESS ON LDC DEBT. AKRAM DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS SUBJECT WOULD BE ONE OF THE MORE CONTENTIOUS AREAS AT THE NAIROBI MEETING.

4. INTERNATIONAL TRADE: IN A RATHER RESIGNED TONE, AKRAM STATED THAT THE MAJOR AIM OF THE PAKISTAN DELEGATION AT UNCTAD IV WOULD BE ATTEMPT TO SECURE SOME RELIEF FOR ITS COTTON AND COTTON TEXTILE EXPORTS. HE DID NOT EXPAND

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UPON SPECIFIC TYPES OF RELIEF PAKISTAN MIGHT SEEK. THE CLEAR IMPLICATION WAS THAT WITH LITTLE HOPE FOR SATISFACTORY RESPONSE, PAKISTAN WOULD CONTINUE TO RAISE THIS SUBJECT AT UNCTAD IV AND IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORA AS IT HAS REGULARLY IN THE PAST. EMBOFFS AT THIS POINT RELATED TO AKRAM A MESSAGE THEY HAD RECEIVED AT A RECENT REGIONAL COMMERCIAL OFFICERS' CONFERENCE. THIS WAS THAT CONGRESS AND DOMESTIC INDUSTRY IN THE US BELIEVED, RE-

GARDLESS OF OTHER OPINION, THAT US GSP AND INITIATIVES
AT MTN HAD RESULTED IN THE US "GIVING" A GREAT DEAL TO THE
REST OF THE WORLD. THUS, CONGRESS WOULD EXPECT IN ANY
FUTURE INTERNATIONAL TRADE ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS
THAT OUR NEGOTIATORS WOULD BRING SOMETHING OF BENEFIT BACK
TO THE US ON EACH OCCASION WHEN FUTURE LIBERALIZATION WAS
OFFERED TO OTHER COUNTRIES OR GROUPS OF COUNTRIES. THUS,
US TRADE NEGOTIATORS WOULD FIND THEMSELVES IN VERY DIFFICULT
POSITION FOR MANY MONTHS AND WOULD INDEED REQUIRE SOME
BENEFIT FROM OTHER COUNTRIES BEFORE PRESENTING TRADE
PACKAGES TO OUR CONGRESS.
BYROADE

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